



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 16, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

- **State Board recognizes achievement in Idaho schools**
- **Teacher Evaluation Task Force public meetings next week**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

STATE BOARD RECOGNIZES ACHIEVEMENT IN IDAHO SCHOOLS [\(GO TO TOP\)](#)

The Idaho State Board of Education honored 76 Idaho schools last week for improving student achievement. The Board gives three (3) different awards to schools with exceptional performance on the Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT) as part of No Child Left Behind.

Three (3) schools were honored as Distinguished Schools: *A Distinguished School must make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years or more, and have reduced the achievement gap of their lowest performing subgroup.*

- Mount Hall Elementary- Boundary County School District, Bonners Ferry
- Trail Wind Elementary- Boise School District
- Webster Elementary- Lewiston School District

Fifteen (15) schools were honored with the Additional Yearly Growth award:

- Pioneer Elementary- Meridian School District
- Kootenai Jr-Sr. High School- Kootenai District, Harrison
- Betty Kiefer Elementary- Lakeland School District, Rathdrum
- Filer High School- Filer School District
- Ririe Elementary- Ririe School District
- Mackay Jr-Sr. High School- Mackay School District
- Lincoln Elementary- Madison School District, Rexburg
- Malad Sr. High School- Malad District
- Council Jr-Sr. High School- Council District
- Dietrich Schools- Dietrich School District
- Marsh Valley High School- Marsh Valley District, Arimo



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- Trail Wind Elementary School- Boise School District (3 awards)
- Webster Elementary- Lewiston School District

Fifty-eight (58) Idaho schools were honored with the Idaho State Board of Education Exceptional Growth Award. The Exceptional Growth Award recognizes schools which have shown growth of 20% or more with a subpopulation on the ISAT, and consequently attain their Adequate Yearly Progress goal. A complete list of those schools can be found at www.osbe.idaho.gov.

The Board is scheduled to meet again on December 4-5, 2008 on the campus of the College of Western Idaho in Nampa.

TEACHER EVALUATION TASK FORCE PUBLIC MEETINGS NEXT WEEK (GO TO TOP)

Members of the Teacher Evaluation Task Force and State Department of Education staff will present the task force's initial recommendations for minimum standards of teacher evaluations in Idaho at three regional public meetings next week in Meridian, Idaho Falls and Pocatello. Teachers, parents and school administrators are encouraged to attend.

To read the entire proposal, submit comments online or to learn more about a public meeting in your community, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/>.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will visit Lincoln Elementary School in Caldwell on at 10:15 a.m. on Monday, October 20, 2008 to kick off the *Pennies for Lincoln* fundraiser.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Teacher Evaluation Task Force's regional public meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, October 20 in Meridian.
- Superintendent Luna will appear on the Neal Larson radio show in Blackfoot from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Teacher Evaluation Task Force's regional public meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22 in Idaho Falls.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Teacher Evaluation Task Force's regional public meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 23 in Pocatello.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Forest Products Week Essay Contest** -- The Idaho Forest Products Commission (IFPC) is sponsoring its 14th annual *Forest Products Week Essay Contest*. Forest Products Week is October 19-25 and provides a time to



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recognize the many products that come from our forests, the people who work in and manage forests, the people who make products, and how they all contribute to our daily lives. Contact IFPC at (208) 334-4061 or plt@idahoforests.org, or visit www.idahoforests.org for contest guidelines, writing prompts and scoring criteria. Winners receive a savings bond, and their class receives cash. Submissions must be postmarked by **October 30, 2008**.

- **Apply now for Einstein Fellowship** -- The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship is a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. To be considered for an Einstein Fellowship for the 2009-2010 school year, apply and submit three letters of recommendation online by **January 13, 2009**. Apply online at <https://applicationlink.labworks.org/applicationlink/default.htm> or visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm to learn more about the program.
- **Comment on proposed changes to school social worker endorsement** -- The Professional Standards Commission is seeking comments on proposed changes to the School Social Workers Standards and Endorsement. The proposed changes are posted on the State Department of Education web site. To learn more, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/socialworkers/>.
- **Learn about Digital Story Projects** -- The Idaho Digital Learning Academy is presenting a webinar on digital story projects using IdahoLive. Help students develop critical thinking and analysis skills while also developing 21st century learning skills. A digital story project requires students to conduct research on a theme and present their learning in a multimedia presentation that includes photographs, music, and the student's own recorded narrative. This session share an actual student digital history project to attendees and show you how students can create them. This session is scheduled from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (MST) on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. To learn more about IdahoLive, please visit www.idahodigitallearning.org.
- **Surplus items available** -- The following surplus items are now available on a first come, first served basis from the State Department of Education. If you are interested in one or more of these items, please contact Brandon Phillips at (208) 332-6867 or BCPhillips@sde.idaho.gov.

Item

HP 9050 DN printer
HP 4100 DTN printer
HP 4350 DTN printer
HP 8150 DN printer
HP 2300 DTN printer
HP 2200 DT printer
HP 5550 CN printer
HP 720 fax machine
13 Inch Monitor
13 Inch Monitor
Dana by Alpha Smart - Spacer Gif
Notebook
Tview Gold - PC to TV video converter
HP Opti Reader Surestore 40FX

Size

24 deep, 28 across, 24 tall
22 deep, 16 across, 19 tall
21 deep, 16 across, 19 tall
22 deep, 22 across, 21 tall
18 deep, 16 across, 16 tall
16 deep, 16 across, 13 tall
26 deep, 23 across, 46 tall
14 deep, 17 across, 11 tall

Keyboard sized
Fits on TV
Computer Tower sized



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Mimio Flipchart	Palm sized
Mimio Flipchart	Palm sized
Compaq ML350 - dual processor server	Computer Tower sized
11 in TV	
11 in TV/VCR	
HP 5550 C Scanner	Flat, fits on desktop
DR 6080 120V Scanner	21 deep, 18 across, 12 tall
Catalyst Switch CISCSCO 4006	12 deep, 17 across, 16 tall
White Board	70 x 48
White Board	70 x 48
White Board	46 x 35

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **School Improvement Webinars** -- The State Department of Education is hosting monthly workshops, presented via webinars, based on the *Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools* through the 2008-2009 school year. This month's topic will be an overview of a research-based system of school organization called the 3-Tier Model, which is the basis for Idaho's School Improvement process and includes ongoing data utilization, instructional focus, alignment, and collaboration. Two separate sessions will be presented on October 28, 2008: The 10 a.m. webinar will be geared towards implementing the model at the elementary level; the 3 p.m. session will be focused on the needs of secondary schools. Deputy Superintendent of Student Achievement and School Accountability Marybeth Flachbart will be facilitating both sessions. To register for the webinars, please visit <http://idla.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp> and click on the "IdahoLive" tab. *Participants are also encouraged to register for one of the many IdahoLive training sessions prior to the 3-Tier workshop.*
- **Classroom Supplies for G/T teachers** -- The State Department of Education would like to remind school districts and charter schools that Gifted/Talented Facilitators should be included in the annual classroom supplies funding. The Public School Finance staff calculates the funding based on the "teacher" FTEs that are reported in IBEDS as of the last Friday in September. This includes IBEDS assignment codes 00001 thru 31999, and 51001 through 73999. Gifted/Talented Facilitators are codes 31510 thru 31540; therefore, they should also receive \$350 a year in classroom supplies funding. The full listing of IBEDS assignment codes is available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/ibeds/docs/forms/Assignment%20Code%20Listing%20-%20All%20Grades.pdf>. If you have questions about coding in IBEDS, please contact Myrna Holgate at (208) 332-6844 or MLHolgate@sde.idaho.gov.
- **We Are Family Conference** -- The 2009 We Are Family Conference for Idahoans with disabilities and their families will be held January 13-16, 2009 in Boise. The conference is sponsored by the Idaho State Independent Living Council, Idaho Parents Unlimited and the Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. For more information, please visit <http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>.
- **Lincoln Bicentennial** -- Schools have several opportunities to take part in the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial celebration. Here are some of the ways in which schools can participate: collect Pennies for Lincoln, enter the Abraham Lincoln Essay Contest, access the available lesson plans, participate in a teacher seminar, view the Lincoln Traveling Museum Exhibit. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/ to learn more.



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- **Virtues Conference 2008** -- Northwest Nazarene University and the Idaho ASCD invite teachers, counselors and administrators to participate in the Virtues conference, which will be held November 20-21, 2008 on the NNU campus in Nampa. Inspiring speakers and founders of The Virtues Project Linda Kavelin Popov and Dr. Dan Popov will help you create a school environment that includes: student leadership, stress reduction for test fatigue, creating an environment for academic excellence, a 90-day plan for positive change and ways to transform classroom and school violence to virtues. Visit <http://www.nnu.edu/virtues> to register.
- **Education News Parents Can Use** -- The U.S. Department of Education hosts a regular TV series about ways to ensure children's educational success. The next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast, focusing on safeguarding America's colleges, is scheduled for October 21, 2008 (8 p.m. ET). For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>.
- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil. Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil.
- **Early Years 2008 conference** -- The Early Years 2008 conference will be held November 18-19, 2008 at Boise State University for parents and early childhood professionals from an array of disciplines. The conference will highlight the many interrelated aspects of growth that impact a child's development. For more information or to register, please visit www.idahochild.org.
- **Secretary of State offers opportunity for 17-year-old students** -- In Idaho, if a student is 17 years old and a U.S. citizen, they can serve as a poll worker on Election Day. Please visit <http://www.idahovotes.gov/Clerk.htm> to find out how you can contact your local county clerk and ask for more information. Student poll workers are paid for their time.
- **2008 Idaho Student Mock Election** -- Secretary of State Ben Ysursa invites your high school to participate in the 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election. This online voting exercise has been developed in cooperation with the State Department of Education to instill an appreciation and importance of voting in Idaho's young people. Any high school government class is welcome to participate. The 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election will be available for two days only: Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24. For more details, please visit <http://www.sos.idaho.gov/isme/ISMEIndex.jsp>. To participate, please e-mail a list of interested teachers and their school e-mail addresses to isme@sos.idaho.gov or call (208) 334-2852.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

Office Location
650 West State Street

Telephone
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired
1-800-377-3529

Fax
208-334-2228



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- **Oct. 20, 2008** – The deadline for schools or districts to submit a Letter of Intent to apply for FY2011 Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program funds. SR2S projects may include engineering solutions and must include education, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation efforts. Eligible applicants may be state or local governmental and/or non-profit organizations. For more information, visit www.itd.idaho.gov/srts/howtoapply.html.
- **Oct. 24, 2008** – The deadline for submissions in the 2008 Holiday Card Contest. Each year, the State Department of Education sponsors a Holiday Card contest to draw attention to art programs in Idaho's elementary schools. One drawing is selected for the Department's holiday greeting. The child who submits the selected artwork receives cards for his or her own use. Visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on "Holiday Card Contest" under the Latest News heading to learn more.
- **Oct. 29, 2008** – The deadline to enter the Idaho State Historical Society's photography contest to recognize Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month will highlight the work of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in Idaho. The submitted image should show a WPA project, demonstrate the success of the WPA, speak to the magnitude of the WPA, and/or illustrate its importance in Idaho. The competition is open to Idaho high school and college students. For more information, please visit www.idahohistory.net or contact Shelby Day at (208) 334-3847 ext. 109 or shelby.day@ishs.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. These awards, presented nationwide by Prudential Financial Inc., in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), honor outstanding community service by young people in grades 5 through 12. Please visit www.prudential.com/spirit or at www.principals.org/prudential for more details.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 IFARMS Annual Financial Report as required by Idaho Code 33-701(7). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms and supporting documents can be found at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** – The deadline to submit materials for the U.S. Senate Youth Program. Each year, two outstanding student leaders from Idaho are selected as delegates to the program where they will travel to Washington, D.C. with all expenses paid and view their federal government in action, meet with national leaders on Capitol Hill, at the White House, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon and the State Department. Each student also receives a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.
- **Oct. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators Teachers Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants. Awards range from \$200 to \$500. All educators are eligible. See www.nwpe.org for an application.
- **Nov. 1, 2008** -- The deadline for Native American students in Idaho to apply for the Columbia River Professional Chapter, American Indian Science & Engineering Society's annual college/university scholarships. Plans are to award two at \$1,000 each. Applicants must be Native American and residing in Oregon, Washington, or Idaho. For more details and to download an application form, visit www.aiesescrc.org and click on the "Scholarships" link.



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- **Nov. 3, 2008** – The deadline to submit applications for the third annual BubbleWrap® Competition for Young Inventors, sponsored by the Sealed Air Corporation and The National Museum of Education. The contest is open to students in grades 5-8. This innovative contest incorporates national and state academic standards in the fields of engineering design, problem-solving, entrepreneurship and all of the core curricular subjects. Visit www.nmoe.org for more details about the competition. Applications may be received via hard copy mail, email or FAX. If you have further questions, please contact the National Museum of Education at info@nmoe.org or (330) 376-8300.
- **Nov. 7, 2008** – The deadline for elementary schools to apply for a chance to receive one of ten \$15,000 grants from the makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings. Each grant award will support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits lasting through the 2009-10 school year. Each school grant will consist of \$15,000 in direct funding, and a one-time donation of Hidden Valley® Original Ranch® Light Dressing. Funding must be spent on any of the following: Fresh produce, a vegetable station, kitchen equipment, program staffing, nutrition education supplies and/or training. All proposals must be submitted online at www.LoveYourVeggiesGrants.org.
- **Nov. 10, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 Independent Audit Report. Idaho Code 33-701(6), which requires submission of the independent audit report, was modified during the 2008 Legislative Session. Not only was the due date changed from October 15 to November 10, but penalties for late submission were also added. If the SDE has not received your report on or before November 10, your November 15 foundation payment may be withheld until the report is received. Please work with your auditor and school board to ensure submission prior to November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Nov. 14, 2008 -- The deadline to apply for the National Excellence in Urban Education Award.** The award recognizes the dedication and talent of urban school educators and students, provides a benchmark of excellence that motivates reform efforts and deepens the knowledge base of best practices for promoting urban school transformation. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.ncust.org>.
- **Nov. 28, 2008** – The deadline to enter into the Council for America's First Freedom's 16th annual First Freedom Student Competition. The competition is a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For more information on this competition, please visit www.firstfreedom.org. Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is November 28, 2008.
- **Dec. 4, 2008 -- The deadline to submit Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests.** If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. You can mail applications to:

State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Oravez
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
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- **Dec. 5, 2008** -- The deadline to nominate a teacher for the Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award, which will be given to educators who demonstrate exemplary efforts to help parents and children achieve their academic and non-academic goals. Please visit <http://www.famlit.org/toyotateacher> for nomination guidelines.
- **Dec. 8, 2008** -- The deadline for school to apply for the National School or District of Character award by the Character Education Partnership (CEP). The purpose of the award is to honor these exemplars and facilitate their leadership in the field of character education. Visit www.character.org/nsoc for more information.
- **Dec. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants. Teachers who are new to the profession, their grade level or school district are eligible to apply. See www.nwpe.org for an application.
- **Jan. 20, 2008** -- The deadline for students to enter the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national video documentary competition, which is open to middle school and high school students (grades 6-12). This year C-SPAN asks students to create a 5- to 8-minute video documentary that addresses an issue of national significance. For more information, please visit www.studentcam.org. If you have any questions, e-mail emartin@c-span.org or call (800) 523-7586.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** -- The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.